MONTEREY NEWS

SEPTEMBER 1996
VOLUME XXVI · Number 9

THE TOWN

Primary Elections. Town Clerk Barbara Swann says she will highly resent those who neglect to vote in the state primary on Tuesday, September 17, 7 a.m.–8 p.m. for the following offices: U. S. Senator, Congressional Representative, Senator in General Court (replacing State Senator Jane Swift, who will be running against the Democratic nominee for Congressional Representative), Representative in General Court, and County offices—Register of Probate, Treasurer, and Commissioner.

Sheffield Litigation. Sheffield's legal case against Alford, Egremont, Monterey, and New Marlborough, filed in early July, seeks to rectify what Sheffield considers an infringement of its constitutional right to be fairly represented on the regional School Committee. On August 5 the four towns faxed a letter to Sheffield stating their agreement on seeking mediation with Sheffield, asking that Sheffield stay court proceedings, and expressing the hope that a Sheffield representative would join with representatives of the four towns on August 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the Great Barrington campus of Berkshire Community College for the purpose of establishing ground rules for mediation. Sheffield did not show up. *The Berkshire Eagle* said, "Shame on Sheffield."

On August 12 the four towns received a letter from the Sheffield Select Board which reviewed Sheffield's past efforts, first for informal discussion and subsequently for mediation. The letter then went on to say that Sheffield will not suspend the litigation process, and that they are willing to pursue mediation, but only with attorneys for all parties meeting to discuss the ground rules—selection of mediator, etc. Monterey responded on the same day, expressing hope that mediation which excluded personal agendas could be pursued within two weeks. On August 19 Sheffield replied, agreeing to meet with all Select Board members involved on August 29 at 5:30 p.m. to address the mediation process. Sheffield no longer demanded that others have legal counsel present, although it was clearly stated that theirs would attend. As of this writing, Monterey does not plan to bring legal counsel to the meeting. All parties agreed on Dr. Bruce Person as moderator of the meeting.

The Monterey Select Board has expressed serious concern about the expense of litigation and the long-run damage to relations with Sheffield as the five towns go about the business of offering the best possible education to the youth of all the towns.

Septic System Problems? We want to remind readers that the Berkshire Housing Development Corporation has ex-

MAGGIE LEONARD

Speed demons inhabit the woods! Monterey is home to a surprising number of racing enthusiasts. Story and pictures, pp. 16-19.

ANITA CARROLL-WELDON

Tom Weldon harvests antique varieties of squash in the heirloom garden at The Bidwell House.

panded the eligibility requirements for its Septic System Repair Program. Although low- and moderate-income property owners will still be given priority, anyone with a septic system problem should call Kevin Dewitt, Program Coordinator, at 413-499-1630. There is a November 1, 1996, deadline for entering into repair or replacement agreements.

Five-Year Capital Expenditures Plan. Good news for the economy-minded. Finance Committee members Greta Cherneff, Dan Moriarty, and Andrea Dunlop, in order that they may realistically and economically budget for future expenditures on buildings, vehicles, computers, etc., is asking all town committees and boards to write a five-year plan projecting their needs. With such plans the town would be ready to jump in applying for grants when they become available.

Keys Turned Over. The Select Board received notice August 12 that co-executors of the Edith Wilson estate Stefan Grotz and William Soons have turned over the security combination and keys to the Wilson/McLaughlin House to Lew Scheffey as representative of the town and member of the Arts Council and Wilson/McLaughlin Building Committee. Access to the house will facilitate the selection of art objects and antiques, as well as maintenance and repairs.

Miscellany. On August 5 the Select Board appointed Robert Krupski as alternate Plumbing Inspector. On August 12 Peter Brown replied to a question as to which paper should carry Monterey legal notices since the demise of the *Berkshire Courier*. *The Berkshire Eagle*, which has wide distribution and has served Monterey well, has been chosen. As of August 5 the town had spent $33,000 in road repairs resulting from torrential rain July 13.

— Jane Black

The *Monterey News* is published monthly under the auspices of Monterey United Church of Christ, Monterey, MA 01245.

DEMOCRATS TO MEET

Monterey Democrats will meet September 6 in the firehouse. The Town Committee will convene at 7:30 p.m., and the general membership will join them at 8:30, when State Representative Chris Hodgkins will address the combined group. He will help us better understand the growing importance of state government as a result of welfare reform.

— Nicky Hearon, Secretary
Democratic Town Committee

COUNCIL ON AGING

Beth Hinkley, Area Community Relations Coordinator for Timberlyn Heights Nursing & Alzheimer's Center in Great Barrington will present up to date information on Alzheimer's disease in conjunction with the Monterey Council on Aging. Ms. Hinkley will also present "Safe Return," a program designed for the safety of individuals with memory problems. Please join us for this opportunity to talk in an informative and supportive way about Alzheimer's disease at 10 a.m. on Friday, September 27 in the basement of Town Hall. The public is invited.

An early reminder: the annual flu and pneumonia vaccine clinic administered by the Berkshire Visiting Nurse Association will take place on Tuesday, October 15, 9–11 a.m. in the basement of Town Hall. Those who want a pneumonia shot should check with their physicians to verify whether they have had a shot within the past five years.

— Pauline Nault

MPLT PICNIC RESCHEDULED

The picnic at The Barway on Mount Hunger has been rescheduled for September 21 at 1 p.m., weather permitting. To get to The Barway, follow Mount Hunger Road east about one mile from Tyringham Road. The Board of Directors will meet September 5 to elect officers.

— Joyce Scheffey

ANALYZING TORNADO, SEEKS EYEWITNESSES

A scientist at the Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale University is tracing the path of the storm that struck the Berkshires on May 29, 1995. The narrow thirty-mile treefall path has been tracked through the New York towns of Greenport, Claverack, and Hillsdale, and the Massachusetts towns of Great Barrington and Monterey. A fallen tree leaves a record on the ground of wind direction at the time of fall. Wind patterns may be inferred from the plots of many treefalls. About 4,000 such treefalls have been measured to date.

Eye-witness accounts are now needed to complete the analysis of this unique storm. If you saw a funnel-shaped cloud associated with this storm, please call 203-432-3178 (day or night) and leave your name, address, and home phone number, or send them to Dr. Copeland MacClintock, Peabody Museum, Yale University, P.O. Box 208118, New Haven, CT 06520-8118

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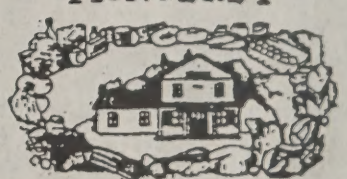

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LAKE GARFIELD ASSOCIATION

On August 17 the Lake Garfield Association held its final summer meeting. Topics included in the often lively discussion were the Chapter 91 dock registration laws, milfoil weevils, and the lake drawdown schedule.

Time is running out for dock registrations! According to Massachusetts law (Chapter 91, Public Waterfront Act), any structure that occupies or projects over state water (Lake Garfield and Lake Buel) must be registered. The law was passed in 1866, but enforcement is recent. We have effectively fought the excessive costs of registration to the point that it is essentially free, but it must be done. The DEP ensures us they have a satellite photo of the lake showing every dock and float, and it will only be a matter of time until they catch you.

The current urgency is that on October 4 their amnesty program expires. If you do not apply by that date, your chance at a free thirty-year license is gone. If you have any questions regarding these requirements, contact Dean Amidon at 528-1233. For very specific information and application forms contact the DEP Waterways Regulation Hotline at 617-292-5777. I have used this hotline and the people there are very nice and helpful.

The Association voted to pursue acceptance into an experiment using milfoil weevils to destroy that particular type of weed. Our own lake management guru, Pat Edelstein, will relay our request to the directors of this experiment. Many others are requesting inclusion, so we will have to wait and see if there are enough weevils to go around.

MAGGIE LEONARD

We also voted unanimously to request a resetting of our normal three-year drawdown schedule. If our proposal is accepted by the town, the first of two full drawdowns will take place this year to be followed in two years by a partial drawdown. The drawdown will begin on October 1 and be completed around October 15. Make sure your boats are out of the lake before it begins. If you are around in the fall, late October is not only beautiful in the Berkshires, but also a good time to clean up your waterfront. Removal of existing weeds or cuttings prevents them from decaying and providing even more nutrients to the lake.

A final note: Lake Garfield will enter the twenty-first century in style. Check out the new home page at http://www.campram.com/lkgarfield/ It is provided to us free of charge by Adam Chait, who, aside from enjoying the lake, runs Campram Computers. Over the winter we will refine the page to include items of interest to anyone around the lake, so send us your comments. You may send E-mail to LkGarfield@aol.com, or you can use an old-fashioned telephone to contact me at 860-295-0516.

— David Quisenberry, President
Lake Garfield Association

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S. BERKSHIRE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Bulky and Hazardous Waste Collections. Two important events! The District has planned a Bulky Waste Week and a Hazardous Waste Day. Bulky waste will be accepted at the Monterey Transfer Station on September 25, 28, and 29. The hazardous waste collection will be shared with Great Barrington (same as last year), and held on November 2 at the Great Barrington Transfer Station. It will be necessary to sign up for this event. Last year, in spite of rain, it was orderly and successful. There should be plenty of publicity beforehand as to what materials will be accepted, but meanwhile make a note of the following acceptable wastes: anything labeled "Caution. Keep out of reach of children," or with treatment for exposure or ingestion; oil based paints, varnish, shellac, wood stripper; pool chemicals, acids, fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, flea and tick products, floor wax and furniture polish, poisons, chemistry sets, oven cleaner.

Latex paint is not hazardous, but will be accepted and mixed for future distribution to the needy. As our transfer station now accepts and recycles motor oil, oil filters, antifreeze, tires, and car batteries, these items will not be accepted. Household batteries are no longer made with hazardous materials and therefore they also will not be accepted.

Recycled money. Last year the Materials Recycling Center in Springfield, which processes recyclable materials from our District, agreed to pay us $20 per ton for ours. Monterey will shortly receive a check for $2,016. We have recycled 100 tons of stuff since the program began a year ago.

We could do better! Monterey voted for mandatory recycling, but we still allow black plastic bags (containing God knows what) to be thrown into the compactor. Many towns accept clear plastic bags only, or charge a per-bag fee for resident use of their compactors in order to discourage those who can't be bothered to recycle.

Not only does it cost the town good money every time a scoffer throws a recyclable item away (Where exactly is "away"?), it is disgraceful, in my opinion, to send perfectly good recyclable materials to stuff the landfill in a neighboring town. Last month our bill just for hauling the non-recyclable compactor was $2,626.87. This is the cost of three hauls at $175 each, plus a tipping fee of $62.50 per ton. That makes 33.63 tons—a lot of which, I am sure, could have been earning us money. Think about it!

We will soon revamp the transfer station to make it safer and more accessible, also to accommodate the new paper compactor that the Town voted to buy at Annual Town Meeting in May. It has taken time to get the bids in, but a new electrical service will be installed by Danny Andrus, and Leigh Tryon will build the pad for the compactor.

— Joyce Scheffey

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THE BIDWELL HOUSE

Restoration. The roof of the museum is leaking, seriously endangering the original structure, its collection of eighteenth and nineteenth century furnishings, historic documents, and decorative arts. In addition, the main building needs to be painted, and the historic nineteenth-century farm shop needs restoration. To help fund all this work, we have been approved for the final round in the application process for receiving a matching grant from the Preservation Projects Fund of the Massachusetts Historical Commission. The Commission will put up $14,000 if we can raise the same amount ourselves before the September 13, 1996, deadline. To date we have raised $8,000 through the Museum's Board of Directors. Won't you join them in helping us reach our goal?

The Bidwell House is turning to the Monterey community for help with this worthy project. We ask that you give as generously as possible. The Museum provides an excellent educational and recreational resource for Monterey. Please send your check to The Bidwell House, P. O. Box 537, Monterey, MA 01245, or drop it off at the Museum.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued support of The Bidwell House.

Events of the Summer. July saw a record number of events at The Bidwell House. The month kicked off with Monterey's own Bonner McAllester sharing her wealth of natural history knowledge. She brought a large collection of bones and hides of native animals so people could get a close-up look at some of our neighbors and their unique physical attributes.

ANITA CARROLL-WELDON

Ian Jenkins expounds on his collection of antique tools for visitors to Traditional Crafts Day at The Bidwell House.

Our annual folk concert was held on the day hurricane rains hit the Berkshires. Fortunately, in true Monterey spirit, Reverend Keith Snow generously offered use of the church. So the fifty-six folks who braved the rain enjoyed a full afternoon of great music by the Calico Indian String Band protected from the elements by the beautiful United Church of Christ.

We ended the month with our first Traditional Crafts Day. It proved to be a wonderful event. Demonstrations of traditional crafts and the team of young Short Horn oxen delighted everyone who attended. Craftspeople wore authentic period costumes, which set a great tone. There was an exhibit on making tool handles, beginning with a hardwood log and using draw knife and shave horse to shape finished handles. Peter Murkett shared his expertise in chairmaking and woodworking with hand tools. Ian Jenkins displayed an impressive collection of antique tools, highlighting his presentation with illustrations in Diderot of the same tools in use.

Gardens. September is an excellent month to view the heirloom vegetable garden here. It is in full glory and you can see the fruits of many rare varieties such as Case Knife beans and Sapsung corn, a blue variety grown by the Delaware Native Americans. Because the garden is used to preserve old, rare types of vegetables and herbs some of the plants may look dry to the modern eye; however, we are letting these plants go to seed so the seeds can be harvested and planted next year.

The herb garden is thriving and the arbor in the children's garden is covered with Scarlet Runner beans, grown by the Iroquois people, and an old variety of sweet pea that goes back to the eighteenth century.

The Bidwell House gardens are open to the public and everyone is welcome.

— Anita Carroll-Weldon, Director
The Biwdwell House

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FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK/ CHILDREN'S HEALTH, INC.

Summer is rushing by! Be sure to enjoy the fresh vegetables and fruit. Many families are getting ready to send youngsters to school.

Our parent-child playgroups will begin the week of September 16. Playgroups are sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Education and are free of charge to parents, caregivers, and children. Children must be following an immunization schedule. An adult who knows the child is requested to be responsible for the child during the playgroup. Adults who wish to assist the leader and have special talents, such as storytelling, arts and crafts, singing, or musical instruments are asked to let the leader know of their ability so that special scheduling can be arranged. We try to plan our educational workshops based on needs of parents. Please let the staff know if there is a topic you would like to have discussed or included in our book and video lending library.

Events for September 1996 (additional information or registration, phone 528-9311):

September 9, 16, 23, 30 Single Mothers Playgroup at Russell House, 54 Castle Street, Gt. Barrington, 10 a.m.–12 noon. GED tutoring is held at the same time. Please call Claudette for information.

September 11 Playgroup leader training, 10 a.m.–12 noon at Russell House. Check with Miriam for details.

September 11 Workshop titled Medical Issues of Infancy presented by Jodi Tuller of the Center for Adolescent and Pediatric Health Care and a doctor from Macony practice in Great Barrington, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Russell House. Please call Loren to register.

September 20 Field trip to Gould Farm to see the animals and harvest activity. Meet at the red barn at 10 a.m. Wear boots. Bring a picnic lunch. A parent-child playgroup will be held at Gould Farm on Fridays at McKee House. Call Claudette for information.

September 21 Fathers' Group, 4-6 p.m. at Russell House. Call Tony for information.

September 21 and 28 Grandma's Attic clothing and toy exchange will be open, 10 a.m.–12 noon, third floor Construct Building, 144 Main Street, Gt. Barrington. Call Claudette or Loren if you cannot make this time and another time can be arranged.

September 13 and 27 Clothing exchange open, 3–5 p.m.

September 25 "How to Talk With Your Children." Roberta Russell, social worker at The Center for Adolescent and Pediatric Healthcare, will speak and lead discussion of ways parents can better communicate with children of all ages, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Russell House. This is a training for volunteers and playgroup leaders. Parents are also invited. Please call Claudette to register.

Local Playgroups. The September schedule of playgroups sponsored by Children's Health includes one on Fridays, 10-11:30 a.m. in McKee House at Gould Farm, one in Sandisfield on Mondays, 9:30–11:30 a.m. at the Community Center, one in Otis on Thursdays, 9:30–11:30 a.m. at Town Hall, and one in Great Barrington on Thursdays, 9:30–11:30 a.m. in St. Peter's Youth Center. Playgroup schedules run with the school schedule: no school, no playgroup.

Money Saving Tips. This is something we can all use! Ana Vreeland has written down twenty-nine money saving tips which we will put into a booklet . Maybe you have some ideas too! Ana's ideas will be available at the book and video lending library. Let us know your ideas so we can add them to our list. Do you think we can come up with 100? Here are two of Ana's ideas:

When we are really tight on money and I have only $20 or $30 to go food shopping, this is what I do to stretch the food dollar. I buy two or three pounds of ground beef and separate it into four portions. I put the portions in a sandwich bag in the freezer. This can make four meals. Sometimes I make spaghetti, use hamburger helper, make goulash, cut potatoes, green peppers, and onions and fry everything in a pan, and of course I can always make Spanish rice.

I have saved a lot on baby wipes which I only used for about a month with my children when they were first born. Then I could not afford them so I had to invent my own. I used an old t-shirt cut into small pieces. It does take some work but it is worth it. Just wet the pieces with a little lukewarm water and some ivory soap and clean your baby. In the bathroom have a small bucket or container with a little water and bleach. Soak the baby wipes for a while after the bucket is full. Wash them thoroughly.

Send us your money saving tips.

— Claudette Callahan

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REP RAP

Tobacco Disclosure Bill Sets National Standard

Why should tobacco products be exempt from the federal law that requires all food and drink manufacturers to list their products' ingredients on the label? The Commonwealth recently passed the Tobacco Disclosure Bill, first of its kind in the nation. This legislation finally gives consumers the power of information my mandating disclosure of additives and nicotine levels in the tobacco products. An attempt to weaken this legislation failed as I fought for our public health and the right of consumers to access information about the products they are buying on our shelves. Under this groundbreaking legislation, tobacco companies are now required to disclose this information to the Department of Public Health, which in turn will release it to the public.

The passage of the bill is a victory for the citizens of this state. According to a recent public opinion poll, nine out of ten Massachusetts voters agree that tobacco companies should be compelled to disclose the additive ingredients in tobacco products. Despite this overwhelming public support, I had to fight to rescue the bill after an attempt was made to weaken it severely. In June, an amendment was attached to the legislation that would not require tobacco companies to disclose any ingredient they considered to be a trade secret.

Under this lessened version, some of the most deadly additives could be considered trade secrets. According to the American Health Foundation, these additives include ammonia, cyanide, formaldehyde, butane, and DDT, many of which release cytotoxic, genotoxic, carcinogenic, and/or mutagenic compounds during the combustion that occurs while smoking.

The amended bill was taken up by the House during an informal session and only a few representatives were present. House rules state that only non-controversial items should be taken up during informal session. Since the amendment was clearly controversial, I insisted that the Speaker present the bill for reconsideration during formal session. Once reconsidered, the amendment was easily defeated and the bill passed as written.

I fought to pass this bill as it was originally intended, to require tobacco companies to disclose the ingredients used in their products. The only exception to this would be if the ingredient has been deemed safe by the Food and Drug Administration and is not to be smoked, as in some chewing tobacco flavorings. Under this legislation, we do not exempt anything that burns. The Tobacco Disclosure Bill is hallmark legislation that will pave the way for laws throughout the country by setting the standard for creating an informed consumer and generating a positive impact on overall public health.

— Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins

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SENATOR SAYS

Bringing Beijing Home

As Senate Chair of the Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators, I have had the privilege of becoming involved in the organizing of the "Massachusetts Conference on Women—Bringing Beijing Home," which will be held at Simmons College in Boston on September 28. The all-day conference will focus on the issues of health, education, and the political and economic empowerment of women. As an Honorary Chair of the conference, I am proud to be actively involved in the planning of this exciting event.

The Massachusetts conference was inspired by the success of the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, China in 1995. Susan Roosevelt Weld served as a delegate to the Beijing conference and has brought many ideas and valuable experiences back to organize the follow-up conference in Boston. "Bringing Beijing Home" will unite an expected 1,500 to 2,000 citizens and leaders in discussions and workshops on women's issues.

The keynote speech of the conference will be given by Rosario Green, Assistant Secretary-General and Special Advisor on Gender Issues to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Ms. Green has served in a variety of distinguished positions in the Mexican diplomatic field and is a professor who has published extensively on international politics, international debt, and Mexican issues.

A highlight of the day will be a national teleconference during which the Boston site will be linked via satellite to the White House and other similar conferences held around the country. The teleconference will include a presentation of reports from the President's Interagency Council followed by speeches by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala. The Massachusetts conference is fortunate to have been chosen as a downlink site which will allow the Boston participants to pose questions to the national speakers.

The Massachusetts Conference on Women will offer something for everyone who is concerned about the status of the Commonwealth's girls, teens, and women of all ages and backgrounds. It will take place on Saturday, September 28, 8 a.m.–6 p.m. A registration fee of $30, or $10 for students, is requested to support the cost of the conference. Anyone interested in attending or seeking more information may contact my Pittsfield office at 413-442-5240 or my Boston office at 617-722-1625. You may also call the conference information hotline at 617-521-2882. For information about transportation from Western Massachusetts please call Nellie Watson at 413-748-8310.

I believe that this conference is an important event which will emphasize the need for continued progress and support in advancing the status of women. This conference will provide the concerned citizens of Massachusetts with an excellent forum in which to come together and address these issues. This unique event will welcome men and women of all ages, races, and economic backgrounds. I strongly encourage area residents to participate in this worthwhile effort. As we work together to improve the health, education, and the political and economic empowerment of women, we will strengthen the families and communities of Massachusetts and the nation.

— Senator Jane Swift

MONTEREY GRANGE

Monterey Grange No. 291 observed Youth Night August 21. Deputy Peter Martin was acting Master with members from area granges conducting the meeting and furnishing an enjoyable program. Special Deputy Fred Bardwell from Whately presented fifty-year Golden Sheaves to Alice Shaffer and Carl Jespersen. Guests were present from Williamsburg, Whately, Flinstone, Heart of the Berkshires, Sheffield, Umpachene, Stockbridge, West Stockbridge, and Granby, Connecticut. Alice Shaffer was winner of the fund raiser patch work quilt made by Joyce Trudeau.

Next meeting will be September 4. The Grange will have an exhibit at the Blandford Fair.

— Fraternally,
Mary Wallace, Lecturer

HELP!

Bring your ideas and/or sketches for the Wilson/ McLaughlin house to the box in the entryway of Town Hall. This is your chance to help the town decide on municipal use of this valuable property!

— The Monterey Select Board

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WINDOW OR MIRROR

A recent evaluation of the church's financial health has made me a bit more sensitive to the current talk on the national scene about tax cuts and welfare reform. Taking into consideration the fact that there is a lot of political hype ("Deceptively inflated advertising or promotion"—*American Heritage Dictionary*) going on right now, I find that money remains one of the most important and talked about subjects in our life—along with sex and death! And it is also rarely talked about with honesty.

MAGGIE LEONARD

For example, I rarely hear much, if any, conversation about the fact that just maybe it is not going to be possible to live in this country (along with western Europe and Japan) with the standard of living that many of us have become accustomed to while the majority of the earth's population suffers huge deprivation. Our standard rests, to a large extent, on the resources of other countries who do not share in the same material standard of living that we do. Considering the nature of communication these days, these same people are asking why they shouldn't be enjoying the same benefits of the natural treasure as we do. According to a recent U. N. statistic, there are approximately 300+ billionaires in the world. That is equivalent to more than the income of 42% of the world's population! There is something terribly wrong with that distribution of wealth. And for those of us who spend our time and stamps sending in Publisher's Clearing House forms, that is a long way from our daily lifestyle.

But think of it this way: wealth is first perceived in the heart. If we buy in to the current materialistic craziness, we soon become overwhelmed with a self-centeredness that distorts what life is all about. It is that kind of view of life that allows people to build miles and miles of chain link fence along our boundaries with the intention of keeping people out (and what do we do with the fact that all of us are immigrant?). The decision to keep people out, whether with fences on our borders or with walls and security posts around the new/old (medieval walled villages) gated communities mushrooming around the country is made in the heart.

A tale from *The Hasidic Anthology* (Bloch Publishing Co., 1944, p. 425) best illustrates this truth:

One day a Hasid came to the Rabbi; he was rich, but a miser. The Rabbi took him by the hand and led him to the window.

"Look out there," he said, and the rich man looked into the street. "What do you see?"

"People," answered the rich man.

Again the Rabbi took him by the hand, and this time led him to the mirror. "What do you see now?" he asked.

"Now I see myself," answered the rich man.

Then the Rabbi said, "Behold—in the window there is glass, and in the mirror there is glass. But the glass of the mirror is covered with a little silver, and no sooner is the silver added than you cease to see others but see only yourself."

Enough said!

— Keith Snow, Pastor
Monterey United Church of Christ

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Southeastern Connecticut

It was a rainy day—on the radio several bad accidents, one in the tunnel on I-84 going through Hartford. I said to my assistants, five dogs and one cat, as they sat in my camper, "My friends, we're not going through Hartford today!" It took some doing, getting on Route 9 from Canton, Connecticut (lots of repairs) but finally we sailed along gaily down to Essex, got on I–95 and went north to visit my son Tim.

Tim lives in North Stonington, still a predominantly rural agricultural community of fifty-six square miles. He found a 150-year-old farm hidden on three acres by old trees from the many all-looking-the-same new town houses that surround him. Sure, the house needs some fixing, but battling the honeysuckle that has relentlessly covered everything, he discovered another apple tree, a bush of pink roses, a bed of lilies. I parked under a giant maple, hooked to power in a garden shed, and let the dogs out—who promptly chased Tim's four cats.

Next day found me sitting in Noah's. Noah's has been serving distinctive food for seventeen years in Stonington Borough, a quiet fishing village on a peninsula jutting into the Sound. Stately eighteenth- and nineteenth-century homes on narrow tree-shaded streets. The "boro" has kept its seafaring atmosphere more than most towns along the Sound. There is a Blessing of the Fleet once a year. Gaily decorated boats, owner, family, and friends aboard with Portuguese wine and food, go ceremoniously out of the harbor, dedicating a wreath to those who never return from sea. On a high rise overlooking the upper end of Stonington harbor, Captain Nathaniel B. Palmer's sixteen-room Victorian mansion was built in 1852. Palmer discovered Antarctica; he and his brother Alexander had distinguished careers as captains, sailing packet and clipper ships to Europe and the Orient. "Captain Nat" turned his talents to ship design and building. This house, once threatened with demolition, was saved, and is now preserved in all its beauty for people to see. You can look out and identify ships arriving from distant ports. Militia from Stonington and nearby towns repulsed two British attacks, once during the American Revolution and again in the War of 1 812. In the nineteenth century Stonington prospered as a railroad-steamboat terminus between Boston and New York.

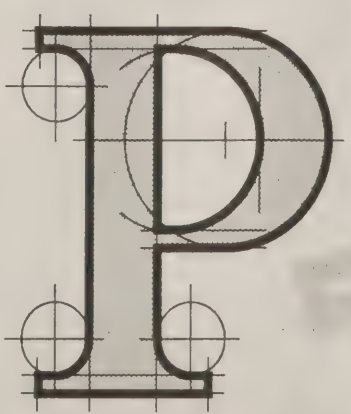
I left Noah's with a full stomach and went down Water Street past intriguing shops, apartments upstairs, noticing the row of "lights" or small panes over the eighteenth-century doors, went past the old Lighthouse Museum and down to the point, with its small protected beach. Many times I have come here to sit in my car and watch the sun come up or the sun go down. You can see to the southeast Watch Hill, Rhode Island; to the southwest is Fisher's Island, New York. Big rocks in front of the car. Scuba divers use this stretch of beach. Most of Connecticut is rocky, thus the name Stonington. The early settlers worked hard to clear the fields for planting, hence the miles of stone fences to mark the borders.

I drove west on Old Route One to Mystic. Standing on the drawbridge (it goes up frequently for tall ships coming up or down the Mystic River) I looked downriver. There on the right shore is the dock where I tied my rented houseboat. Lived there two summers. One dog I had then, she used to slid and slide when the wash from a passing boat reached us. She got used to liking it! I looked upriver. There's the fabulous Mystic Seaport, bringing the nineteenth century to life. You can board the last of the old whaling ships, see the quarters below where the crew, almost sleeping on top of each other, lived for periods up to four years! Mystic has a long history of shipbuilding, shipping, and whaling. The first settlers in the 1600s, were farmers in the summer and shipbuilders in the winter. By the end of the eighteenth century, Mystic was a bustling port. There were eighteen whaleships sailing out of Mystic in the 1840s. Mystic, from the Pequot word Missi-tuk; meaning great tidal river, is a great place to visit. The world-renowned Mystic Marinelife Aquarium up the road brings you face to face with beluga whales, dolphins, penguins and thousands of other colorful fish and invertebrates.

But modern life has come to southeastern Connecticut. A few years ago I was driving up Route 2 not far from Tim's on a winding two-lane road going from Pawcatuck to Norwich when I rounded a corner and saw, to my astonishment, a great big skyscraper dwarfing the trees. Looked like Miami Beach! Foxwoods Resort and Casino on Indian land. The ad says: "The Biggest and Best Casino in the World. Disguised [what a laugh] as a Hideaway in the Connecticut Woods!" They are buying up every available piece of land around. Now they have started another hotel, even bigger. What a way to pay for our schools and public services, by luring a working man/woman into the casino on Friday night to spend his/her hard-earned weekly paycheck! Now they're going to widen Route 2, to let more and more people come.

Thank goodness Tim lives quietly in the middle of his land, behind his big trees.

— Joan Woodard Reed



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PERSEPHONE REMEMBERED

Persephone's room is all pink rosebuds—
she has a princess four-poster bed
white with a white canopy
dolls and teddybears and a framed picture
of Daddy and Mommy when they were young—
Persephone's closet blooms with flowered dresses
shetland sweaters and matching skirts
and she has a cork bulletin board
with a school banner, a faded corsage
from you know who—
Persephone's mother is mild and sweet
she belongs to the Garden Club and to
St. Margaret's Guild
Today's the equinox and Miss Stein at school
said to look out the window and notice the position of
the setting sun
Persephone leans on the chintz cushions
while opening the latticed windows
and there is a god there
a god with dark eyes and dark intent
a dark sweater and a dark gun
she screams, but as the sun sets
she is already down the black well of time
when Persephone's mother returns
she says: Oh, dear!

— A. O. Howell

LIGHT-FOOT LARRY

Light-foot Larry, restless lad
Ran away from his mother and dad
Ran away from everything he had known
And started 'round the world all by his lone.

Light-foot Larry, restless kid
Beat it for the distance so he did
Hit the open country and the deep sea track
"I won't return," said Larry, "Till I'm coming back."

Light-foot Larry, restless chap
Wandered all the countries that are on the map
Shivered in the arctic, sweltered on the line
Fought and starved and suffered, and he liked it fine.

Light-foot Larry, restless lad
Came back home to his ma and dad
All his worldly fortune was some eighteen cents
With a million dollars in experience.

Light-foot Larry, blithe and brown
Sort of thought he'd marry and just settle down
Now he's got a job, but he won't stay put
Light-foot Larry has an itching foot.

Light-foot Larry, restless lad
Hops off one more for a world-wide gad
With a little fool girl for his gypsy wife
And won't he lead her just an awful life
But when Larry calls, well a girl must go
And I am the girl, so I ought to know.

— Hannah Pixley

CATTY

So—I am a woman.
All six senses and child bearing hips of me.
Meow.

I am eating a grilled cheese sandwich with extra butter because I can't decide
what to fix first.
Caretakers.
I hear that's what we are.

Then why do I want flowers today?
And my sixteen year old body back?
These things should not matter...

How is it that we deny ourselves what we most desire?
Shouldn't our fear be in check by now,
Now that there are more gray hairs than patience with tweezers allows?

Babies and husbands are not the monsters they once were.
Careful not to create legacy out of loneliness...
And what of leaving a mark,
changing world policy?

That fire isn't embers yet—
Blow some into the ashes just for reaction.
Imagine what running would do.

This talk of fire makes me wish for a blanket.
Tired isn't leaving,
It is the only company that is constant.
Where to begin will have to wait.

— Shannon Amidon

BIRCHES IN THE DEEP DARK WOODS

Here in the Berkshires we are blessed with three kinds of birches in our woods, sometimes five. Most commonly we see yellow birch, black birch, and the well-known white, paper or canoe birch with its sheets of peeling bark. When I am out in the woods with a gang of kids identifying plants, the paper birch is the one they all know. They think of writing letters on pieces of its bark, of making canoes, of decorative logs in their family fireplaces. I think the reason we know the paper birch best is that it stands out so white in the dark summer woods.

To the Indians and early colonists paper birches were essential for survival. The bark is so tough and waterproof that it was used for boats, roofing, rain-gear, and cooking utensils. Sheets of bark were collected in the spring, when it is loosest on the tree. A vertical cut was made with an axe and the thick layer of bark peeled right around the tree, using a wooden spud to pry it loose without cracking the bark. Nineteenth-century writers tell of trees six or seven feet in diameter in the northern range of the canoe birch, where it was often possible to harvest huge sheets of bark.

In canoe making the big pieces of bark were sewn together using tough strips of the inner bark of basswood trees or else with spruce roots. Then pitch from pine or fir trees was used as a waterproof seam sealer, after it was first purified by boiling and skimming. Charcoal powder was mixed in to blacken the pitch, making a handsome dark line along the seams and one which is scrupulously copied today in aluminum canoes which are painted to look like birch bark. The only explanation I've been able to think of for this blackening of the pitch, other than the high-contrast esthetic one, is that the dark color absorbs heat from the sun and keeps the pitch supple. Lamp blacking used to be mixed into grafting wax for this reason.

Of all our deciduous trees, paper birches have the most northern distribution. Indians and settlers from Labrador to the west coast of Alaska used the bark to make their houses. An early account of settlements of the Hudson's Bay Company describes tents made of pieces twelve feet long and four feet wide. The Indians could put up a bark tent twenty feet across and ten feet high in half an hour. Wigwams were also made of sheets of birch bark. These were permanent structures and the bark lasted for many decades. White settlers caught on to the use of birch bark for roofing and one account tells of a seventy-year-old structure that was torn down and the bark roofing saved for use on a new barn. The roofing was as good as new.

Chippewa "Makuk" for maple sugar. Made of birch bark, tan side out.

In these damp woods, on a south-facing slope subject to big temperature extremes, our split cedar roof only lasted fifteen years. We never thought of using birch bark, but even if we had, we might have decided against it because it is so flammable, maybe even more so than split cedar. The oil which makes it waterproof also makes it excellent tinder. You can touch a match to it, even when it is dripping wet, and it will burst into flame, giving off thick black smoke with a characteristic pungence. On the other hand, you can boil water in a birch bark vessel, as long as you are careful not to let the flame touch any part of the bark which is above the water line inside. Water, even when boiling, won't heat up above 212 degrees F. The bark has to get hotter than this to ignite. (This is the same principle which protects our maple syrup evaporator from a melt-down. As long as there is sap in the pan the metal stays cool enough to hold together. If you let the pan boil dry, you'll lose it.)

Some people like to make little boxes of birch bark. This is done by cutting, folding and stitching, often with a reinforced rim of sweet grass. One of our crafts books advises putting the tan, inner side of the bark outermost because it is more durable than the white, chalky side, also because you'll "tire of it less quickly." The implication here is that although the bright clean white look is attractive at first, it gets to be a bit much later on. I guess this is a personal call. Many people love to stack up three or four white logs in a little-used fireplace, and paper birches are often planted decoratively on suburban lawns.

My favorite piece of birch bark, just now, is a piece about one foot square down by our brook. I put it there on the ground a couple of weeks ago as a dry sitting place for a friend who wanted to sit and listen to the brook. She lives in the city. We had started out on a walk to the neighbors' to feed the cats. As we were about to cross the brook she stopped—"I think I'd like to just stay here while you go on." So I left her there, sitting like a lady Buddha with the music of the brook. When I came back to collect her she told me how she'd turned her head this way and that way to get different musical effects.

I see Harriotte's sitting place every morning when I go to the brook for water for the young chickens. I don't stop to sit myself, but often during my busy summer days I stop for a few seconds to picture that durable white reminder against the damp dark brook bank. In a flash it reminds me of canoes, of excellent roofing, of maple sugaring in pre-Columbian times. I think of great wigwams, of small elegant boxes decorated with porcupine quills, and I think of the lady Buddha of the brook. The background music, as these associations go flashing by, is how much I love my home among the birches in the deep dark woods.

— Bonner J. McAllester

WILDLIFE SURVEY

Late summer flowers. Perhaps the main sight along the roads and scattered through the fields is Queen Anne's lace—flat white umbels two to three feet high. Here and there, a specialty of late summer, is wild cucumber, or wild balsam apple. Its erect clusters of small white flowers follow the course of the vine as it climbs, in search of sunlight, all over roadside or streamside shrubbery. Later, its prickly green fruits, like small hollow apples or short cucumbers, will demonstrate where the plant got its two principle names. Goldenrod is also at its peak in the open places, making, with the last of the black-eyed Susans, the strong yellow motif of late summer. Another star in the flower-show of this season is purple loosestrife with its long spikes of purple flowers ranging up to six feet tall. Its population can take over entire swamps and wet fields. Here and there a faintly red maple or a bronzing hobble-bush (moosewood) gives intimations of fall color soon to come.

On the ponds and lakes, yellow pond lily (spatterdock, cow lily) adds its sturdy yellow to the scene and the white, sweet-scented water lily (*Nymphaea odorata*) is at its peak, filling the air with incomparable fragrance.

Other blooms of the season include ground nut (like small brownish-maroon wisteria), white baneberries, pokeweed, Jo Pye weed (named after one of our own Mahican Indians, I've just heard), sweet pepper (another special fragrance), cardinal flower, shrubby cinquefoil, water smartweed, Mexican smartweed, sumac, meadowsweet, cattail, boneset, arrowhead, a few last wild roses of summer, forget-me-not, meadow rue, turtle head, mountain ash's clusters of bright orange berries, helleborine, rattlesnake plantain, Indian pipe, beechdrops, blueberries, blackberries, a few late raspberries, wood asters, burdock, sweet clover, a few persistent daisies. Wood asters deserve special mention: their simple white blossoms are lighting up the woods everywhere; they are unique in their tolerance of shade—their host of fall-blooming cousins will sport their blues and purples mostly in sunny places. My flower book names thirty-four varieties of goldenrod (which are also asters). Some of the more striking names are erect, hairy, stout, tall, wandlike, and zigzag.

Caesar's Amanita. *The cap is orange bleeding to yellow at the edges of the flat tops; the grass is green, and the turf rich brown.*

Bears. Dale Duryea passed on a story he saw in the *Eagle* in early August, of hunters training bear dogs up in the Savoy region. A practice run flushed a bear onto a highway resulting in a dead bear and dog, and a badly damaged car. Joan Reed wrote, July 18: "About ten days ago I slowed down on Tyringham Road just north of the village for a black dog, I thought. A middle-size bear crossed in front of my car. He was 'lumbering,' not looking to the right or left. Of course, my camera was at home!" She also enclosed a clipping from the *Eagle*: "Bruin Hits Friendly's for a Little Late Lunch." On July 8 it was "fishing for food in the dumpster, about 2 p.m." in the parking lot of the Friendly's Restaurant in Lenox.

A mini-ecosystem. On August 13, visiting family from Washington, D.C., and Great Barrington moved and stacked a winter's supply of stovewood for David and Beryl McAllester, Hupi Road. In the moist, dark interior of the original heap of split wood they found six large larvae of the sawyer beetle and the following reptiles and amphibia: twenty-nine red-backed salamanders, eight red efts (Eastern newts), three toads, one frog, one spring peeper (Eastern tree frog) and one Eastern ring-necked snake. All but the grubs were moved, as discovered, to other damp, secluded habitats. In the two days before that, on various walks in the woods, Beryl's niece, Carroll Irene Courtenay, counted twenty-three red efts, seven spring peepers, and one garter snake.

Avian sightings. Canada geese, a loon (heard several times but not seen), great blue herons, crows, robins, several families of mallards, cedar waxwings, catbirds, tufted titmice, pileated woodpeckers, song sparrows, chipping sparrows, phoebes, rose breasted grosbeaks, red tailed hawks, turkey vultures, blue jays, kingfishers, goldfinches. A hummingbird visited Bonner McAllester's scarlet runner bean flowers and then hovered right by Bonner herself, attracted by her red sweatshirt.

From Dale Duryea. He has seen some young white tail deer since his last report, and he's seen coyotes (Eastern brush wolves) in his field. He has heard from his fellow animal control officers that the rabies that wiped out 80% of our raccoon population two years ago has now hit eastern Massachusetts around Plymouth and is equally bad in southern Maine and New Hampshire.

— David P. McAllester

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MONTEREY MOTORSPORTS: THE SPEED DEMONS

Bob Hebert

Vehicle racing is the largest spectator sport in North America, and a surprising number of racing enthusiasts live quietly in Monterey. Bob Hebert is the dean of this unofficial club, a man who would rather drive than speak, which is not to say that he doesn't enjoy talking about race cars. It's just that once he climbs into the cockpit and fires up the engine, the hype fades and he enters a realm beyond words, a serene place where he is one with speed.

TOM ROSENTHAL

One of two vintage E Type Jaguars that Bob now drives for Donovan Jaguars of Lenox has just been rebuilt after a mishap two years ago at Pocono Race Track. Bob was going into a turn at about 150 m.p.h. when a radiator water hose blew, spitting water under the car, which went into a spin, hit the wall, and rolled up the high bank of the turn. Bob then "drifted the car across the track onto the grass." Brian Donovan is quick to comment on the accident. "If it wasn't for Bob's uncanny skill, the car would have been totaled."

The blue E Type is modified for endurance races and has won every race in its category that it finished. It will make its reappearance at Lime Rock (in Connecticut) over the Labor Day weekend. The white E Type #61 races in the Class 6 Trans-Am category, sprint races of eight to twelve laps. It is the fastest vintage Jaguar in North America. While Brian Donovan occasionally drives the blue Jag in enduro races, only Bob races #61.

Bob Hebert is a Monterey native, a natural athlete who always loved cars. In 1969 he drove his blue Corvette to Lime Rock Park for an Open Tuesday, when if you had twenty-five dollars and a helmet you could try putting your pedal to the metal. Bob found someone who had withdrawn to the bar after blowing an engine, and borrowed the man's helmet. He drove until his tires were bald, and was hooked. Next he bought a Formula Ford and did one driving school at Bridgehampton and a second one at Lime Rock, where he got his racing license and won his first Formula Ford race. He then won all five of the regional races he entered. He found the serious competition at his first national event, and learned that he would have to raise his driving skills a notch to be successful.

In the early 1970s Bob was invited to join Freddie Stevensen as a team driver for Lotus Racing East. For three years Lotus supported the team, while he and Freddie raced thirty-six times, placing first or second in every race. After leaving the team, Bob continued to race Lotus cars privately on the national level. He took a break from racing in the late 1970s to attend to family and business needs. In the early eighties he was back on the track with his vintage Morland, and by 1985 was driving a Porsche 911 for Import Restoration in Connecticut. He has also raced stock cars, joining two other team drivers in the twenty-four hour event at Daytona, where he was fastest qualifier. Last year he raced again at Daytona with a French team driving a Dodge Viper, and posted the second fastest lap time.

When asked about his most exciting race, Bob described his victory in Jaguar #61 at Laguna Sega in Monterey, California. He ran second for the entire race, then overtook the lead car on the last corner of the last lap in a breathtaking finish to win.

That says it all.

Mike Mielke

At seventeen, Mike Mielke is the youngest member of this un-club. He rides half the number of wheels that the others have under them, and routinely leaps high into the air on his vehicle. It's a dirt bike, a 125cc 1996 Suzuki RM, new to Mike this season, and the best bike he's owned. This is his third year racing on motocross tracks around the northeast, places with names like Walden Playboy, Ace, Diamondback, and South Woods. Claverack Motocross is closest and most familiar to Mike, who races every Sunday from the last snow of spring to the first the following fall.

Motocross tracks are bulldozed into fields. They are typically less than a mile long, full of right and left banked turns and various configurations of short hills called tabletops (ramp up, flat, ramp

TOM ROSENTHAL

Bob Hebert and Brian Donovan with the fastest vintage Jaguar in North America.

P. MIELKE

Mike Mielke

down), doubles (a tabletop with the flat missing), and whups (large-scale corrugation). The starting gate, which releases as many as forty bikes abreast, is called a mousetrap. When the gate flops down and the pack heads for the first turn, beware of pileups. Four to six times around the track spreads the bikes out, and that's a race—maybe ten minutes start to finish.

After he first drove his friend Jason Tanner's dirt bike there was no turning back for Mike. He took a $200 dirt bike training class and entered the twelve-to-fifteen age group competing in motocross races. Although they certainly run at lesser speeds than the 100-m.p.h.-plus typical of auto racing, dirt bike riders are not strapped into cages. Exposure is risky, but injuries are rarely serious. As Mike negotiated the learning curve his first year on the track, he broke an ankle in one spill, and his wrist another time, but all that's been put back together and healed now, and he regularly finishes among the top five. Earlier this summer Mike took a second place at Claverack, where he races with other drivers he knows on a track that's like home. So far this season he's accumulated twelve of the fifty points he will need to lift his status from novice to amateur. Those who place among the first five in a race are awarded points—ten for first place, seven for second, five for third, three for fourth, and two for fifth. With ten races left this season, Mike has a good shot at amateur status before winter weather closes down the tracks. Another fifty points after that and he'll be an expert. It's only a matter of time.

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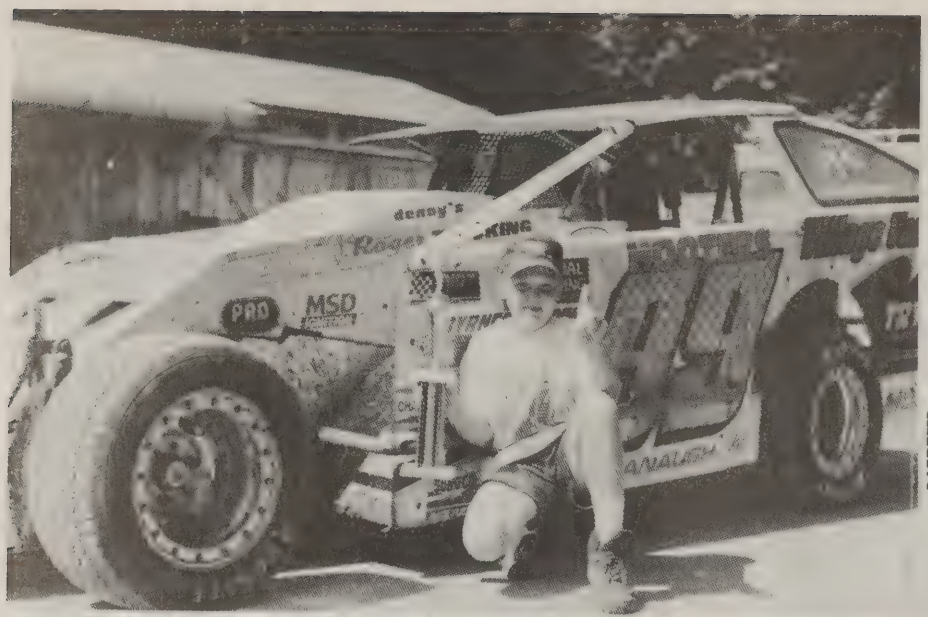
Leigh, Shawn, and Christopher Tryon, Brook Walsh, and Mark Amstead

The Tryons (father and sons), Brook Walsh, and Mark Amstead, all of Monterey, are members of the team supporting the dirt track modified stock car driven by Dick Larkin, who races at nearby Lebanon Valley in New York state every Saturday night. The car took a first in the main event about a month ago, and Dick Larkin stood third in points at Lebanon as of August 17; first and



Christopher Tryon with the Larkin team's first-place main event trophy taken this summer at Lebanon Valley.

second places in these late season standings were held by paid, professional stock car drivers. Larkin and his support team race because they like to.

The car is serviced each week in a garage at Leigh Tryon's home in Monterey. There is no fixed schedule for members of the crew to work on the car evenings during the week. They just show up as time allows and see to it that the vehicle is stripped down to the frame and cleaned, repaired as necessary, lubricated, tuned and balanced for the next race. Leigh guesses there may be thirty or forty man-hours involved every week. Shawn and Christopher put in time, and both express a desire to drive when they are old enough. (Leigh never said that, although he *is* old enough.)

The modified stock car runs at Lebanon on an oval clay track five-eighths of a mile long. A race is thirty laps. The car's balance and suspension are designed for left turns, the only kind it makes during a race. Somewhere underneath the dart-like sheet metal body lurks a Dodge Daytona, but this vehicle is a far cry from the cars coming out of Detroit. It has a Bicknell chassis made in Canada, weighs 2,500 pounds, and packs 800 horsepower in an engine that turns from 4,000 to 7,800 RPM. The clutch, operated by a hand lever on the side of the cockpit, is only used initially, to put the car in motion. Once it's racing, the car is controlled with stop and go pedals, by engine speed, no gears. The steering wheel mounts on the column by means of a spring-loaded collar; there isn't room enough in the cockpit for the driver to climb in with the wheel in place, so it's mounted after Dick Larkin is all strapped in. Although minor scrapes among vehicles are common in dirt track stock car racing, injuries are rare: drivers are secured safely within the beefy steel frames of their cars.

Larkin's race on Saturday, August 17, was not his best this season, but a report on the evening's action in *Dirt Trackin'* magazine captures the flavor of stock car racing:

...Hearn overtook third from Wetmore with two complete. Blair continued to hunt down King until he spun in turn two with six laps down causing Bobby Albert, Donnie Acker & Wetmore to have no where to go. Blair continued but Albert & Wetmore had to be towed from the scene. On the restart, King kept the advantage with Hearn now giving chase in second with Dickie Larkin in third and a three way battle for fourth between Eddie Marshall, Kenny Tremont & last week's winner John Hewitt. A battle for second was also being waged between Hearn & Larkin. King was having a fabulous drive lap after lap as he kept the lead despite the many cautions. King's great run came to an end with only eight laps down when the car suffered mechanical woes. What a disappointment for the King team. Now the battle for the lead was between Hearn & Larkin. Larkin spun in turn two while charging hard to get by Hearn with eight laps down...

Minor sheet metal damage, maybe half a notch down in the standings—but hey. The team heads home and goes to work evenings getting the car ready for next week's race. The Labor Day weekend will be full: Saturday night at Lebanon Valley, then Monday on the one-mile track at New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse. It's a busy life.

Ian Jenkins

Monterey's newcomer to auto sports is Ian Jenkins, owner (with his wife Maria Carvainis) and driver of a 1956 Jaguar XK 140, now designated Jag #624. The car's previous owner used it for club racing until the engine was blown at Watkins Glen in 1973. It sat in a heated garage for twenty-two years until Ian bought the car in the fall of 1995 and had it fully restored at Donovan Jaguar in Lenox. It's a beautiful machine—British racing green with no stripe, white numbers, wire spoke wheels. What's under the hood is spotless as the sleek curves outside. At the recent Jaguar Association of New England Concours d' Elegance show in Concord, Massachusetts, #624 took best in class for competition cars. One of Ian's many motorsporting tee-shirts bears the legend: "Some people collect art. We race it."

After logging an intolerable number of hours on the Taconic, Ian got serious behind the wheel last summer when he

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attended Skip Barber Racing School at Lime Rock. Then during the winter the Jag came together at Donovan's, Ian joined the Vintage Sports Car Racing Association, and hit the road this spring in his Dodge pickup with #624 behind him inside a long black trailer. After several events at Lime Rock, he raced at Road America in Elkart Lake, Wisconsin, in May, and this past June he finished first in his class in the One-hour Enduro Race at Mid-Ohio Race Track in Lexington, Ohio. Ian is spending the last week of August in time trials at Lime Rock, preparing for a Labor Day weekend of racing there. After that it's on to Watkins Glen the following week, then Road Atlanta in mid October.

Ian got the bug for cars a long time ago. In college he rebuilt a 1954 Chevy, then picked up an MGTD with a blown engine and put the car back in shape himself, working from the manual. His long love affair with British sports cars had begun, and today is far from over. When he and Maria go out for a drive in good weather, they take his blue Austin Healey 3000, mint as the Jag but set up for the road, not the track.

Ian's favorite line about vintage sports car racing: "The cars are the stars. The drivers' job is to show them off."

— Tom Rosenthal (on Bob Hebert) and Peter Murkett

P. MURKETT

Mike Mielke catches air practicing near home off Main Road.

MAGGIE LEONARD

Ian Jenkins and his 1956 Jaguar XK 140, #624.

CONTRIBUTORS

Our readers continue to come through with the green, keeping us in the black as we help you to be locally well-read. Thanks to

Judy Gray
Barbara Resnik
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Peter Brittingham & Erika Crofut
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FIRE COMPANY HISTORY

On Friday evening, August 23, Fire Chief Ray Tryon spoke to a small gathering in the General Knox Room on the history of the Monterey Fire Company.

Monterey initiated formally organized fire protection in 1930, when Town Meeting appropriated $1,000 for "fire apparatus," which, when added to $249 from the state, allowed purchase of a portable fire pump and hose capable of pouring thirty gallons per minute on a blaze. In the words of H. Perry Fargo, then Forest Fire Warden:

> After this equipment had all arrived we found it was not complete without a truck for transportation.
>
> A. W. Tryon immediately wrote to Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Diefenderfer, summer residents of Monterey, and they gladly donated their old reliable Cadillac touring car, vintage of 1916, to be used as we saw fit, and with the aid of the boys and a few dollars worth of lumber, iron, bolts, paint, etc., we constructed a very satisfactory fire truck..."

Later in the same report Warden Fargo advised residents

> in case of fire [to] call B. E. Tryon's, 164-3, and state the nature of the fire; then forget the telephone and fight the fire until we can get there and give you aid. One call is all that is necessary: Mrs. Tryon will do the rest.

After thanking "the boys" and noting his pride in the "cooperation we have in this town," he concluded:

> Last, but not least, I wish to thank A. W. Tryon, who has given his time unstintingly in the construction of our equipment, has housed it all in his garage free of charge, sees that all is in running order at all times and as the time has now arrived when we need a fire chief I would suggest that at our annual town meeting, February 2, the selectmen be instructed to appoint him to this position.

It was so done, and Wallace Tryon, Ray's late father, became Monterey's first Fire Chief in 1931. The long, slow development of a local volunteer fire company followed.

1938 was a pivotal year. John Lambert headed a committee charged with purchasing the town's first fire truck, and later that year was appointed Fire Chief. The town appropriated $2,000 for the vehicle—a basic Ford truck costing $790, with pump and 1 1/8-inch hose added; it was delivered in June, garaged at Art Hebert's shop and Beartown State Forest. In October work began on the firehouse that still stands at the head of New Marlborough Road, and in 1939 the building was finished and the new truck moved in. The budget that year for fire protection was $690.

Ray Tryon's name first appears in the recorded history of Monterey firefighting in 1944, when at age fourteen he was paid $1.80 for his services. The alarm in those days went out over the phone; Margaret Harmon took the call, and spread the word. In 1944 a large siren was installed on the roof of the firehouse, and everyone knew when there was a fire.

Parker Harmon succeeded John Lambert as Chief in 1947, and Ray succeeded Parker in 1954. He has been Monterey Fire Chief for forty-two years now. A new truck was purchased in 1955 for $10,000, with pump and hose capable of delivering 600 gallons per minute. Organizing and training available manpower to make the best use of this new equipment was a long process. It took decades to build the Monterey Fire Company into the proud, effective, volunteer emergency service that residents today risk taking for granted. The social gathering that passed for training was little help in an emergency, and whenever the siren blew at suppertime dozens of eager men converged on the scene with no good idea of who should do what. Ray recalled fireground scenes in the 1950s that were so chaotic "hoses were cut with an axe to stop the foolishness."

In the 1960s and '70s the situation gradually improved. Red phones were installed in firefighters' homes, and later on pagers were used to alert firefighters without broadcasting the alarm. *Firehouse* magazine, regional gatherings of local volunteer chiefs, and training sessions sponsored by the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy all contributed to

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In 1976 the town bought a new attack truck ($44,000 this time) and in 1979 a new tank truck ($75,000) carrying two thousand gallons of water and equipped with four-inch hoses was added to the fleet. About the same time members of the fire company formed a nonprofit corporation for the purpose of building their own new firehouse. They learned the art of steak roast, and contributions to the building effort came from all sides, in cash and in kind. The voluntarism of that period was widely inclusive, an inspiration to many. The firehouse we all use today was dedicated in 1982, and the mortgage the fire company took out to build it will be paid off in another year or two.

By current state law local volunteer fire companies have primary responsibility for public safety in towns. Following the apparently inevitable pattern of modern life, legal responsibility and authority are inseparable from legal liability, and in matters of public safety it is all focused in the person of the chief. State law also mandates that all fire company members be trained as first responders. Currently medical emergencies account for half or more of all calls received by the Monterey volunteers. The company now includes three EMTs, and will soon have a defibrillator and personnel trained in its use. The 911 dispatch system for all emergencies is up and running.

Last year's tornado was by far the greatest threat to public safety ever experienced here. Communication by radio, phone, and vehicle was utterly shut down for hours after the storm, yet local resources proved more than sufficient, and the crisis was likely better managed in Monterey than anywhere else in the weeks that followed. Such sudden and extreme isolation was certainly a new experience, but community self-reliance is not. In the years since local emergencies could cause pandemonium, much has been learned.

It was a treat to hear Ray tell the story. He has been right there from the very beginning.

— Peter Murkett

UPON MY WORD!

The two words with all the vowels in their natural order are "abstemious" and "facetious." And the one-syllable word with eight consonants is "strengths." Hope everyone got them!

A lot of fun can also be had with palindromes. These are words, phrases, or sentences that read the same backwards as well as forwards. A famous example is "Madam I'm Adam." Here in Monterey we are proud to have a palindromic resident in Welles Sellew. I don't think many villages in the Berkshires can boast of one!

— Alice O. Howell

THANKS

It is with sincere, heartfelt thanks that we wish to acknowledge the twenty-four years of dedicated service by **Florence Brown** to the Town of Monterey and the Cemetery Committee. Florence, thank you for your loyal service and dedication to this Committee and to the Town of Monterey.

— Linda Thorpe, Chair
Rudy Gero
Jane Thorn

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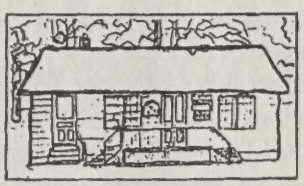

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PERSONAL NOTES

Many of you probably spotted the pink balloons! Our congratulations to **Mark** and **Theresa Amstead** on the birth of their daughter, **Molly Marie**. Molly was born August 13 at Fairview Hospital, weighing in at 5 lbs., 14 oz., and measuring 20 1/2 inches long. Proud grandparents are Don and Pat Amstead, and then there are all those excited uncles and aunts, too many to name! Best wishes to all of you.

Hats off to **Joel Kalodner**, who has been invited to join the Law Review at University of Michigan Law School. Joel is entering his second year of law school this fall after spending a great summer working for a law firm in New York. He is the son of Nancy Kalodner of Mount Hunger Road.

I enjoyed a surprise visit with **Gerry** and **Marge McMahon** when I bumped into them by chance at the local supermarket on Cape Cod. It was great fun and I'm happy to report that these two fine former Monterey folk are looking very well and happy, and send warm greetings "home" with fond memories of their time here.

As we enter a new school year we look forward to spotting many Monterey students' names on local honor rolls. Finishing the last school year with a bang at Mount Everett Regional in Sheffield were **Michael Bynack**, who made Honors in grade eight, **Cedric Mason**, who made Honors in grade nine, **Justin Thomson** in grade ten, and **Shaylan Burkhart**, **Joseph Kopetchny**, **Kathryn Kopetchny**, and **Jared Thomson**, who all made Honors in grade eleven. In grade seven **Hannah Bracken**, **Kimberly Gero**, and **Katherine Vallianos** achieved High Honors. Congratulations, and keep up the good work, all of you!

DENISE ANDRUS

Lauren Andrus at the beach with permanent houseguest Barbie D., who, despite confidence in front of a lens, was the only kid too shy for Swim America this summer.

Apologies [from the Editor] for the omission of the August celebrants. Belated, but nonetheless heartfelt birthday greetings to **Chelsey Smith** on August 2, to **Gabriella Makuc** on August 4, to **Katie Kopetchny** on August 5, to **David McAllester** on August 6, to **Ann Burns Smith** on August 7, to **Patrick Sheridan** on August 9, to **Kate Elizabeth Olds** and **Sarah Olds** on August 15, to **Michelle Grotz** and **Judith Malafronte** on August 20, to **Alton Heath** on August 22, to **Amanda Thorn** on August 24, to **Ann McGinley** on August 26, and to **Rick Mielke** on August 30. Happy anniversary wishes to **Tom** and **Jane Thorn** on August 19, to **Stefan** and **Stephanie** on August 23, to **Pam Gauthier** and **Tom Morrison** on August 28, and to **Jeff** and **Hannah Moran** on August 29.

And, happy birthday to **Dinah Mielke** on September 2, to **Gabriele Haapanen** on September 3, to **Katie Vallianos** and **Micole Raab** on September 4, to **Jeff Gauthier** on September 13, to **Christina Vallianos** on September 23, to **Ellen Coburn** on September 24, to **myself** on September 26, to **Marcus Sheridan** on September 27, to **Rod Palmer** and **Ray Tryon** on September 28, and to **Scott Sheridan** and **Susan Sheridan** on September 29. Happy anniversary to **Mark** and **Mary Makuc** on September 11, and to **Arthur** and **Alice Somers** on September 12.

Any news or birthday wishes you want to share? Please just give me a call at 528-4519, or jot items down and drop them tome in the mail, just Route 23. Thanks in advance!

— Stephanie Grotz

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THE OBSERVER - JULY

On July 13 hurricane Bertha (rare so early) brought 5.13" rain, along with certain moths that some say produced worms in local sweet corn. The month's total rainfall was three times the regional norm, and nearly three times July precipitation last year. But ever-cautious Fire Chief Ray Tryon noted the abundant growth of leafy seedlings where the woods were razed by the tornado, and thinks a dry fall could yet create a fire hazard.

High temp (7/8)	85°
Low temp. (7/11)	49°
Avg. high temp.	79°
Avg. low temp.	57°
Avg. temp.	68°
Monthly norm. (Pitts.)	68.3°
Precip. occ.	16 days
Total precip. (rainfall)	12.59"
Monthly norm. (Pitts.)	4.21"
High bar. press. (7/12)	30.30"
Low bar. press. (7/19)	29.48"
Low humidity (7/5)	67%
Avg. wind speed	2.5 mph
High wind gust (7/20)	38 mph

CALENDAR

Sundays, September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 AA meetings, 9 a.m. in the Monterey Firehouse, Main Road.

Wednesday, September 4 Meeting of Monterey Grange No. 291, 8 p.m. downstairs at Town Hall.

Friday, September 6 Monterey Democratic Town Committee meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the firehouse; all interested Democrats at 8:30.

Tuesday, September 17
Primary elections, 7 a.m.–8 p.m. in the firehouse.

Free blood pressure clinic, 9–10:30 a.m. in the basement room of the Monterey Grange (town offices), Main Road.

Wednesday, September 18 Meeting of the Southern Berkshire Solid Waste District, 7 p.m., church basement.

Saturday, September 21 Land Trust picnic on Mt. Hunger, 1 p.m.

Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday, September 25, 28, 29 Furniture and bulky waste collected at Monterey Transfer Station during regular hours.

Friday, September 27 Program on Alzheimer's, 10 a.m. downstairs at Town Hall.

Saturday, September 28 Square and contradance at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, 8:30–11:30 p.m. Music by Mountain Laurel, calling by Joe Baker. All dances taught, beginners and children welcome. Refreshments. Adults $5, children $2. Info: 413-528-9385 or 518-329-7578.

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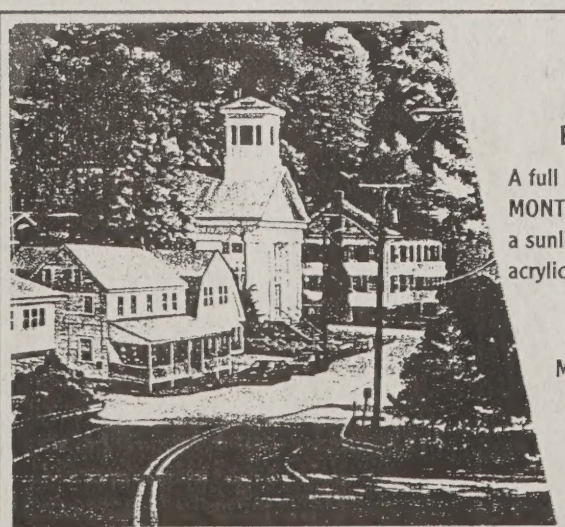

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We invite written contributions, drawings, and photographs from readers. Please send submissions by the fifteenth of the month before publication, addressed to the attention of the Editor.

Send any change of address, or initial request to receive the *News* by mail to Barbara Tryon, Business Manager.

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Contribution from one local artist this month: Bonner McAllester, p. 14.

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